



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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**Testimony before the
Labor and Public Employees Committee
Tuesday, February 10, 2009**

Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and members of the Labor and Public employees committee, my name is Lori Pelletier and I am the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO. I am here on behalf of the 211,000 union men and women from all across this state to testify in support of the following raised bills.

Support: S.B. 710 (Raised) AN ACT CONCERNING UPDATES TO THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT – This raised bill offers an important update by extending support to families of members of the Armed forces who are undergoing medical treatment or recuperation. As we all know, more seriously injured soldiers are surviving due to improvements in battlefield medicine and body armor but are returning with need for extensive care. It is appropriate for the state to support families that wish to take time to care for soldiers who have risked their lives for our country. We also support the update to protect the privacy of employees by preventing supervisors from viewing employee medical records.

Support: S.B. 711 (Raised) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMPANIES THAT REDUCE RETIREMENT BENEFITS – Retirement benefits should be considered as deferred income to which an employee is entitled. The state should require that those companies receiving state financial assistance follow through on their obligations to the employees to pay retirement benefits.

Support: S.B. 714 (Raised) AN ACT CONCERNING RETALIATION FOR USE OF PAID SICK LEAVE –No employee should be harassed or intimidated by their employer when they use sick leave. This is a common sense bill that would protect employees who use their defined sick leave benefit and that would promote healthy workplaces.

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